

April 3—April 16, 2008 | www.otterrealm.net

California State University Monterey Bay's Student Run Newspaper

OR

[otter realm]

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Student Second Chance**

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Elementary School Students**

**SPORTS p.17 | Campus Cheerleaders
Question Their Place at CSUMB**



Career Fair

Full-time, Part-time, Internships and Summer Opportunities across the Region, State and Nation

**Tuesday & Wednesday
April 8-9, 2008**

**11:00am-4:00pm
@ UC Ballroom**

Career Fair Tips

Prepare Your Resume

- ☐ Learn what recruiters expect from a resume in the Career Guide available at career.csumb.edu
- ☐ Call Career Development at (831) 582-3845 to schedule a resume critique

Prepare Yourself

- ☐ Practice how you want to introduce yourself and quickly sell your qualifications in 1 to 2 minutes
- ☐ Be able to quickly describe your major, career interest, related experience and the type of position you are seeking.
- ☐ Review the directory at career.csumb.edu for links to each participating company's website

Dress for Success

- ☐ Dress and look professional-at least Business Casual* clothing is recommended for the fair.
- ☐ Need Professional Clothing??
Visit Dress for Success -11am-3pm During Career Fair
*see Career Guide for specific guidelines

At the Fair

- ☐ Introduce yourself with a firm handshake and good eye contact
- ☐ Let the representative know if you are gathering information or actively seeking a job
- ☐ When targeting organizations of interest to you
Provide a copy of your resume, inquire about application procedures, demonstrate enthusiasm

For a more detailed version of these tips,
see the Career Guide at career.csumb.edu

Career Fair 2008 Preview

Sampling of the many companies registered
to attend the CSUMB Career Fair*

Apple, Inc.
CalTrans
C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.
CTB/McGraw-Hill
Cintas Corporation
County of Monterey
DMDC
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Growers Express
Hyatt Regency, Monterey
Kennolyn Camps
Language Line Services
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
& 10 Other School Districts
Pebble Beach Company
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Rebekah Childrens Services
Sports4Kids
Target
United States Peace Corps
Verizon Wireless

*Note many
companies will
only attend a single
day so plan to
attend
both days.

For a
full listing of
attending
organizations
and more details
please see
career.csumb.edu

Special Event

Join us after the Career Fair on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 from
4:00pm-6:00pm in the UC Ballroom for a mixer with members
of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

STUDENTS FROM ALL MAJORS WELCOME

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appointment
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career counselor call
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Seaside, CA 93955
Office: (831) 582-3845
Fax: (831) 582-3093
career_development@csumb.edu
career.csumb.edu

Black Box Cabaret Needs Passionate Students

Jessica Diers, Staff Reporter
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Passion to take a stand or make a change can be a powerful asset. CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students have been passionate about a temporary military building on campus since 1996. Through the unwavering passion of faculty, staff and students this temporary military building was transformed into the Black Box Cabaret (BBC). Students have continued to fight for approximately 12 years in order to keep on show casing local and student talent within the BBC.

"I was part of the original group of students back in 1999/2000 that helped save the BBC yet

again," said Kevin Miller, web programming specialist. "It is quite disheartening to see a place that I worked so hard for cease to be the safe place for expression it once was; however, I think that it has great promise if students can rally together to take ownership of it."

The lack of passionate students currently has required the BBC to change hours of operation and eliminate the availability of a hot meal for hungry students. This semester's hours of operation are from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and serve as a safe place for students to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee or a pastry.

Thursday nights, Friday nights, and occasionally Saturday nights the BBC hosts local bands and



student events, which typically result in a full house. As for regular week nights, student attendance is at an all time low.

Assistant manager Martin Cornejo said, "The inability to serve hot meals has created less student traffic for the BBC and therefore students are trying to build a new business plan for next year in order to serve food and push for more student activity during the day."

"I miss the food that used to be offered at the BBC, it really was the best food on campus," said Senior and ISSM major Patricia Poston. "I also miss the open mics that were hosted every Thursday, the BBC used to be packed on Thursday nights."

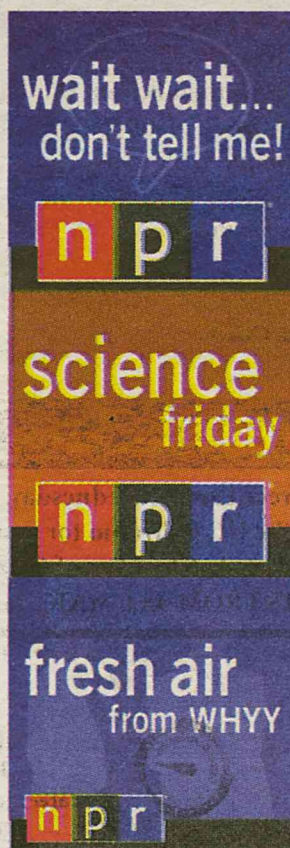
Student sacrifices have been made to keep the BBC open and available. In spring 2000, students chanted "Our box, Our Choice"

*"I miss the food...
at the BBC, it really
was the best food on
campus."*

- PATRICIA POSTON, SENIOR
ISSM MAJOR

while rallying, marching and fighting for the once temporary military building. The BBC is a reflection of student passion and drive, which is why some feel more reason to keep their eyes on the prize and support the growth of the BBC.

KAZU Radio Finds a New Home at CSUMB



Some radio shows played on KAZU.

Greg Tomascheski, Staff Reporter
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Students at CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) will be excited to know that the auxiliary Foundation of CSUMB has plans to relocate the KAZU public broadcast station onto the CSUMB campus by the end of summer 2008.

The KAZU license was acquired by the foundation in 2000 and has been gaining support from local listeners since.

Jack Jewett is vice president for university advancement at CSUMB. In a letter from Jewett to two local newspapers in Monterey County, Jewett wrote "KAZU looks forward to expanding both its listening audience and underwriting base through years to come, hewing to a high standard of excellence demanded by listeners while also seeking ways to increase campus involvement."

Currently, the KAZU public broadcast station is located in Pacific Grove and the station's primary focus is National Public Radio, coupled with local news, traffic and weather reports.

Though the location has not been officially confirmed, Building 201 at CSUMB is being taken into consideration as a new home for KAZU.

On Feb. 28, KAZU faced a possible merger with KUSP in Santa Cruz. After much deliberation, the CSUMB foundation's board of directors voted unanimously to maintain KAZU's independent status.

"The station has been very successful," said Scott Faust who works auxiliary Foundation of CSUMB as the Executive Director of Strategic Communications. A recent on-air and online pledge drive brought KAZU \$126,000, moving the station closer to its goal of being self-sufficient.

Separate from the KAZU public station, the Teledramatic Arts and Technology program at CSUMB currently offers students the opportunity to host their own online and closed circuit radio shows. The broadcast is presented online at tat.csUMB.edu/ottermedia/ or on television channel 71 on campus.

Junior and Mathematics major at CSUMB, Kyle Fessenden spent a semester as a DJ for Otter Media in 2005. "With an online broadcast there's really very little limitation on what music you play or what you talk about. Some students have talk shows, sports shows, and some just play music," said Fessenden.

KAZU and Otter Media will continue to operate as separate entities on campus. Each provides unique opportunities for CSUMB students and the local community.

For information on
KAZU please visit
KAZU.org

Big Donation Comes with a Big Star



PHOTO BY RANDY TUNNELL

Ollie Nutt and Dianne Harrison with Clint Eastwood.

Ricky Welshiemer, Assistant News Editor
RICHARD_WELSHIEMER@CSUMB.EDU

On March 20, CSU Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) President Dianne Harrison was presented with a \$620,000 donation towards the new Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library and CSUMB's athletic department by Clint Eastwood the Chairman on the board of Monterey Peninsula Foundation (MPF) and Ollie Nutt the President and CEO of MPF.

"They [MPF] awarded CSUMB a \$500,000 grant to the new \$64 million library because they consider it a pivotal new

asset for student development and for the future of the University," said Scott Faust, the Executive Director of Strategic Communications at CSUMB. "They [MPF] also recognize the value of encouraging student athletes and developing the University's athletics program, which is why they gave an additional \$120,000 for athletic scholarships."

At the press conference held in front of the new library Eastwood said, "The Monterey Peninsula Foundation is very pleased to be involved with this University and with this library. With the world of the Internet,

libraries don't get the attention they deserve."

"The contribution from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation is extremely important to CSUMB. It indicates their confidence in our institution and our future progress, especially with the library and our student athletes," said President Harrison. "The fact that Mr. Eastwood and Mr. Nutt made a personal visit to campus to help with the announcement not only solidifies our relationship with the MPF but also serves as a great message to the rest of the community that some of the most influential leaders

in Monterey are supporting our efforts. We hope that others will follow their lead."

MPF has been providing financial support to CSUMB since its first years of opening. "The Monterey Peninsula Foundation is one of our region's most important philanthropic organizations, with a particular emphasis on youth development and educational programs. This philanthropy will ensure our University continues to fulfill the vision its founders laid out 13 years ago," said Harrison.

The press conference ended with President Harrison giving a tour of the new library to

Eastwood and Nutt. Afterwards time was allowed for students, administrators and faculty to meet with Eastwood and Nutt.

"CSUMB looks forward to maintaining a strong relationship with MPF and other prospective funders to make sure they are aware of the exciting momentum here at CSUMB and how they can continue to support the University's development," said Faust.

UPD Discourages Parking In Remote Locations

Johanna Estrella, Staff Reporter
JOHANNA_ESTRELLA@CSUMB.EDU

A streak of car robberies has been reported recently at a popular, hidden parking spot near the U.S. Highway 1 underpass off of Divarty Street known as First Street Beach. The walk can be inviting for those wanting to relax and take a nice stroll by the sea; however, the broken car glass on the gravel, graffiti on the bridge, and the over all isolated area reminds people to park at their own risk.

Katie Brown, a former CSUMB student who has transferred out, had her 2000 Land Rover broken into about a month ago. Brown said she parked there for no more than two hours between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., but she returned to

find both her purse and a pair of sentimental family earrings had been stolen.

That same day, Human Communication (HCOM) Sophomore Reid Larson, left his 2003 Ford Escape unlocked with the sunroof open and suffered no damages. Brown was not as fortunate as Larson and now regrets having left her purse in plain sight on the passenger seat.

Brown and Larson waited patiently into the evening after reporting the theft; although, it took more than two hours before officers arrived on scene. Because of the location the call was tossed between University Police Departments (UPD) and Marina and Seaside Departments, which was the cause for the delay. Officers later apologized for the miscommunication and wait time which Brown deemed excessive.

Larson's car was also present during another robbery that happened shortly after the first incident, yet still he incurred no damages. Larson said he hides his items of value in his car and has a removable stereo faceplate, strategies that seem to be paying off so far.

Although Brown and Larson have firsthand experience with these unfortunate events, they both agree that they do not feel unsafe on campus. They say that simple precautions like parking in populated areas or hiding valuables can easily increase student security.

When asked about the frequency of auto burglary on campus Lieutenant Earl Lawson of the UPD confirmed that only two incidents have been reported on campus in the past three months. One theft took place on Thomas court in the Schoonover apartments while the other

took place in the baseball field parking lot. Because the First Street Beach lot does not fall under the jurisdiction of UPD the number of robberies that have taken place there are unknown.

Lawson said that the First Street Beach lot is a terrible place to park because it is so remote, and although he understands the accessibility of the beach can be attractive to students without cars, he expressed that those with cars are probably better off going to recognized beaches with more populated parking lots. Lawson cautioned students from parking in remote areas and encourages students to refer to the UPD website for further tips.

For further car safety tips, refer to police.csUMB.edu/site/x13043.xml



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Campus Community Rallies Against Proposed Budget Cut

Claire Crosbie, Staff Reporter
CLAIRE_CROSBIE@CSUMB.EDU

The March 13 budget rally turned into a historic event when students, staff, faculty and community members all gathered together to fight for one common cause, the future of the California State University (CSU) system. The purpose behind the campus-wide rally was to emphasize and to educate the community about the negative effects Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed \$386 million cut from the 2008-2009 school year's budget would have for the 23 CSU campuses statewide.

In addition to the proposed

budget cut, the \$73.2 million General Fund revenue required to avoid an increase in student fees is not incorporated in the proposed budget for this year. The governor's proposal came as a shock to everyone, as four years ago the CSU was cut by half a million dollars, and as CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) President Dianne Harrison said during the rally, "the CSU has still not recovered from previous budget cuts."

The proposed budget cut will have many negative impacts on the CSU system, including larger class sizes, and impacted or eliminated classes, which will create a

longer pathway to graduation and a degree. Student fees will increase by another 10 percent and

"The CSU has still not recovered from previous budget cuts."

PRESIDENT DIANNE HARRISON

a remarkable number of students will be rejected from attending college. Many Latino, African-

American, Native American and first-generation students will be further disadvantaged if this budget cut takes effect. Also with the budget cut, the CSU will not be able to support any new programs to further assist students in their education.

The main request heard at the rally was for students to take action and fight against this budget cut. Steven Levinson, Vice President of CSUMB's California Faculty Association, gave a list of actions students can do to voice their opinions against the cut.

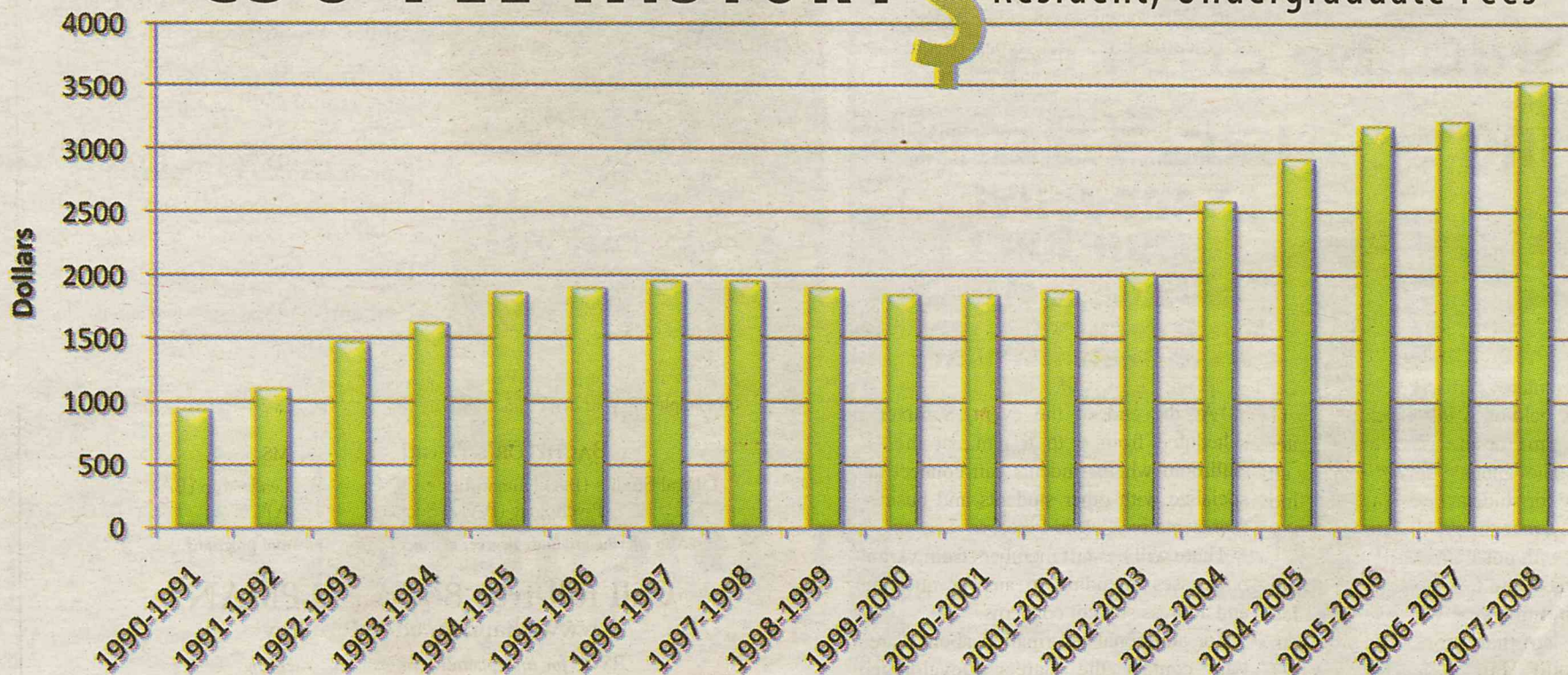
"More public events need to be held; legislatures should be contacted, and students just need

to inform people the impacts this cut will have on students," Levinson said.

The rally offered students throughout the CSU campuses many ideas for what they can do to help stop the cuts, such as: visit alliancefortheesu.org and sign a petition card as well as learn more ways to get involved, telling others, posting signs on campus and in town, attend events such as the Budget Summit and write to legislators such as Senator Jeff Denham.

More information concerning the proposed budget cut can be found at csumb.edu/budgetsolution.

CSU FEE HISTORY Average CSU Academic Year Resident, Undergraduate Fees



SOURCE: CALSTATE.EDU/BUDGET/FEEENRLL_INFO/FEE_HISTORY_90-08.PDF

Judge Gives CSUMB Student Second Chance

Elaine Schumacher, Staff Reporter
ELAINE_SCHUMACHER@CSUMB.EDU

On March 3 all charges against Macheel Roper, a Behavioral Science senior of CSU-Monterey Bay (CSUMB) were dismissed. Roper was accused of taking the life of her husband in self-defense during an altercation on Dec. 21, 2007.

"When I was released, I could not stop hugging my children," said Roper. She added that her two children are coping with the loss of their father and sometimes it was tough. "Both children know

what happened and they are in counseling, learning how to deal with their feelings," said Roper.

Defense attorney, Jim Egar stated that he was pleased with the outcome. "This was a unique situation between a husband and wife and it is satisfying to know that the principles of laws existed for the accused," said Egar. "If there is reasonable fear that one's life is in danger, one has the right to defend yourself," added Egar.

He went on to say that Roper has been given a second opportunity to live her life and believes she will do her best to be

a good mother to her children.

According to Cathy Nyznyk, Director of the Children's Care Center at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC), Roper often took her children to the campus center while she attended classes.

"Macheel served as president of the parent's advisory club here [at MPC] and when I heard that the charges against her were dropped, I was relieved because the children would still have one parent," said Nyznyk.

"If you are experiencing abuse in your relationship, ascertain your personal level of comfort and if it is negative, get out,

walk away, especially if there is physical abuse," Roper advised.

Now, when she thinks of her husband, she tries to think only of the good times they shared.

"It happened so quickly, I paused hoping he would stop but he did not," said Roper.

"Only through God's glory am I free," Roper said of her release.

"I want to thank all of the people who prayed for me because God heard and answered those prayers," Roper added.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, please contact:

Shelter Outreach Plus,
Salinas-24 hour hotline
831-422-2201

Women's Crisis Support
831-757-1001 831-757-1002

YWCA Domestic Violence
Crisis Line
831-372-6300

24 hr hotline 1-800-992-2151

YWCA Counseling
831-655-9222

Opportunity for Students to Find Employment

Elaine Schumacher, Staff Reporter
ELAINE_SCHUMACHER@CSUMB.EDU

The CSU Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) Career Fair will be held on April 8 and 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the University Center Ballroom. The annual Career Fair is an opportunity for students and alumni to find internships, a part-time or a summer job, or to network with potential employers.

"In the past, the fair has been decently attended, but this year we have extended the hours so that more students can attend," said Katrice Miller, a 2007 Human Communication graduate, who is the administrative and events coordinator

at the Career Development office, building 44.

Miller continued to state that students can learn what employers expect from a potential hire, what types of questions to ask the recruiters, and receive tips on dressing professionally.


"The Career Fair is a really unique opportunity for employers in the area who specifically want to hire a CSUMB student," said Amber Perez, director of events coordinator.


A different group of potential employers are scheduled each day. This year, there is a mixture of employers, from city and county offices, school district representatives, and hospitality organizations.

"At the end of the event, a mixer is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m., at the UC Ballroom where students can connect and socialize with other students and business representatives," said Perez.

There will be staff members from various businesses attending to answer questions and address student concerns.

For additional information about Career Fair contact the Career Development office (831) 582-3845 or email: career_development@csumb.edu.


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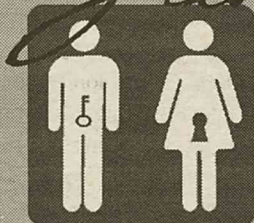
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Sexual Healing



Demystifying Vaginal Discharge

Mary Freeman, Managing Editor
MARY_FREEMAN@CSUMB.EDU

Sometimes the vagina is a mystery not only to men, but to women as well. A lack of knowledge about vaginal discharge often leads to unwarranted fear, anxiety, self-doubt and insecurities.

A little known fact about vaginal discharge is that it is integral to keeping the vagina "so fresh and so clean, clean" because it cleanses the vagina of old cells and germs, as well as lubricates and protects the vagina from infections. Ironically, many women use douching to "solve" the "problem" of discharge, which in fact increases chances of vaginal infection.

According to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation's website, normal discharge is usually odorless and clear or milky white. However, coloration of discharge may change from time to time, and like one's favorite color, discharge shades can indicate much about an individual.

At the beginning and end of a woman's cycle discharge tends to take on a white tone. Abnormally thick, white discharge, accompanied with itching, is a sign of a yeast infection, however.

Clear and "stretchy" discharge occurs throughout ovulation, whereas clear and "watery" discharge appears during the menstruation cycle and after intense exercise, of all sorts.

Due to the presence of blood, darkly colored discharge may occur after periods, and sometimes during ovulation and mid-cycle. It is also an early indicator of pregnancy if spotting occurs at the time that normal menstruation should.

Various factors can increase the amount of discharge women experience, such as: menstrual cycle, emotional stress, pregnancy, various prescribed and over-the-counter medications including oral contraceptives, sexual arousal, breastfeeding, ovulation and diet.

In her article, "12 Ways to Prevent Abnormal Vaginal Discharge and Infection," found at About.com, Tracee Comforth outlines various tips for women. During an infection refrain from sexual intercourse as well as scratching the vagina, use pads instead of tampons if menstruation begins, and if self-administered medications do not lead to improvement then seek out a medical professional. However, Comforth advises not to use any at-home medications 48 hours before seeing a doctor. Like with any illness it is important to complete treatments, self or doctor administered.

Comforth continued that to avoid infections women should try to wear cotton panties exclusively during the day and no underwear at night. Women should also limit the amount of time spent wearing tight-fitting clothing, such as bathing suits. Avoid the use of products that may irritate the vagina, such as petroleum-based lubricants, powders, feminine hygiene products, and perfumed soaps and lotions. Additionally, wiping from front to back is important after urination or bowel movements in order to decrease the spread of bacteria into the vagina.

While most females have questionable days, remember that a white stream in one's favorite panties does not always indicate a horrible infection, but should still be investigated thoroughly.

Free Software Alternatives Encompass Students' Needs

With the increasing prices for software, it is getting increasingly difficult for students to get work done. Fortunately for students, many companies have created freeware that is just as good and in some cases better than mainstream expensive software. Here is a breakdown of some of the most popular freeware programs:

Noelle Blair, Staff Reporter
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FIREFOX

The default Internet browser in most CSUMB labs, Firefox is generally regarded as a safer and better alternative to the more popular Microsoft Internet Explorer. A large amount of add-ons, such as the Stumble button, which delivers web pages based on selected interests, make Firefox customizable.
mozilla.com

audacity

Available on many lab computers at CSU Monterey Bay, Audacity is used to edit audio files. It can easily cut out pieces of sound files, record, and more. It also has an impressive amount of effects, such as an echo, pitch adjuster, and bass boost.
audacity.sourceforge.net

GIMP

A widely supported image manipulation program. An easy to use interface and capable of most things that Adobe Photoshop can do make Gimp an incredibly versatile piece of freeware.
gimp.org

WINDOWS GAMES

The Internet is full of free games and this website directs users to some of the most popular Windows friendly games. Look for an early version of Grand Theft Auto and fan-versions of Super Mario.
freeware-software.org/games

blender

For the student with a knack for 3D creating and editing, Blender is the perfect platform to create interesting 3D animations and games. The interface takes some time to learn to use, however there are several tutorials for users to read. For the beginner wanting to learn 3D animation, www.alice.org is an amazing freeware program developed to teach students how to create computer-based animations for stories, games, and videos.
blender.org

open office

With the price of Microsoft Office going up to \$500, students may start searching for a free alternative. Open Office is an open-source program with many of the same components as Microsoft Office, including a word processor, spreadsheet and presentation creator.
openoffice.com

DVD SHRINK

For students who have a habit of losing or breaking DVDs, DVD Shrink may be just the program to back up their discs. The easy to use interface allows users to create back-up ISO image files, which is a common file type for burning on to CD-ROMs, of their DVDs that will fit on a standard DVD-R. It can also be used to edit home movies that are on DVDs.
dvdshrink.org

Protestors March On Burger King's Headquarters

Johanna Estrella, Staff Reporter
JOHANNA_ESTRELLA@CSUMB.EDU

In California, 36 Burger King restaurants were protested and boycotted on March 31, the day national action against Burger King was launched. "We do not want slavery whoppers," expressed David Partida, Community Studies junior and Union Assembly Organizing Director at University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) when asked about his motivations for protesting against Burger King on behalf of the Immokalee workers that pick tomatoes in southern Florida.

Partida was one of the 8 to 9,000 students and supporters from the country that marched 9.5 miles to Burger King headquarters in Miami, Florida on Nov. 30 2007. The fast food chain is being asked by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) to refrain from purchasing tomatoes from Florida until employers agree to meet better conditions and wages for its farm workers.

Initially, the CIW asked their employers for these demands but focused on the company's buyers when they refused, since companies generally try to meet their customers' demands. This is not the first time a national boycott has been declared on a fast food chain.

In 2001 the "Boot the Bell" was launched asking Taco Bell to take responsibility for the salaries and treatment that farm workers were enduring. The boycott ended in 2005 when Yum Brands, owners of Taco Bell and many other fast food restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, Long John Silvers, and A&W, finally agreed to CIW demands. In 2006, McDonald's was asked to do the same as Taco Bell,

and another boycott lasted until 2007 when McDonald's agreed.

Melody Gonzales, a University of Notre Dame alumni and southern California native who lives and works in Immokalee with the CIW, the Student Farm worker Alliance (SFA), and Interfaith Action of southwest Florida, has been there for three years.

Gonzales stated that no official boycotts have yet to be announced, but is petitioning a campaign against Burger King if it does not agree to CIW's demands. The petition is a threat to boycott that focuses mainly on Burger King, but mentions other and all companies that buy tomatoes from Florida.

Normal working conditions in Immokalee include sub-poverty wages, 45 cents per 32 lbs of tomatoes picked, or \$10,00-12,000 annual gross per year making Immokalee workers one of the lowest paid farm workers in the country. They have no wages from the grower and are only paid for the tomatoes they pick.

In extreme circumstances, workers have reported violence, death threats, work against their will, and punishment for attempting to switch jobs or leave Immokalee by their employers. There are seven slavery cases that have been prosecuted through federal court, the most recent case occurred in November 2007. All seven cases were violations of the 13th Amendment which abolishes slavery.

Gonzales shared that "everyone should care when slavery occurs within their country or anywhere in the world." She expressed, that all people have a responsibility when they are patrons to the industries that allow such treatment.

Indeed, 90 percent of the nation's tomatoes come from Florida during the winter. Some groups that have signed the CIW's petition include the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS), Interfaith Action, el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (Mecha) and churches and religious groups along with international support. Communities have started creative signature, such as video petitions, t-shirt and banner signing.

On April 28 2008, CIW will take all collected signatures from all over the country to Burger King headquarters once more. Edgar Diaz, religious studies junior at Yale University volunteered in Immokalee with the CIW over his spring break.

Diaz also helped organize along with Partida a demonstration at Subway headquarters on Jan. 18 2007 in Milford, CT. "Americans think that slavery doesn't exist in the United States, but in Florida they would see how unjust that this is still happening," said Diaz.

Partida and Gonzales express how students especially are a main focus of advertisement for the fast food industry which is why it is important for students everywhere to participate in actions such as these. During the Taco Bell boycott, 22 universities across the country cut or prevented contracts with Taco Bell including New York University (NYU), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of Chicago.

Partida expressed how Immokalee hits home for many students at

UCSC and CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) since some students have parents working in the Central Valley, and according to Partida "showing solidarity with CIW is recognizing some of the struggles of their families."

**"We do not want
slavery whoppers."**

DAVID PARTIDA, COMMUNITY
STUDIES JUNIOR AND UNION
ASSEMBLY ORGANIZING
DIRECTOR AT UCSC

Got questions about the Otter Realm?

email us at:
otterrealmeditors.csUMB.edu



PHOTOS BY KATE KIECHLE

Aquarium Splish Splash

Kate Kiechle, Online Editor
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The second floor of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is making a big splash among visitors and volunteers alike. The newly remodeled Splash Zone opened to the public March 17.

According to Sarah-Mae Nelson, guest experience interpreter, who works with the aquarium, the second floor was the only part of the original aquarium still in need of remodeling. Today the Splash Zone contains three new areas of exhibits: The Coral Reef Kingdom, Rugged Rocky Shore and Enchanted Kelp Forest.

During the remodel the penguins that were on display before

construction began, were moved to the third floor. Here away from visitors, the penguins were taken care of in what was called the Hospital Suite.

Now, for the sea life in the new exhibits, life is good. The penguins have been given a new and larger living area and along with the seahorses, new lighting systems are helping to create more natural lighting. Times of day and soon even seasonal changes are to be represented with the new lighting.

The night of March 24 volunteers, along with their friends and family, were given tickets permitting them into a special night visit to the aquarium that lasted from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The penguins could be seen

grooming and curling up to sleep, as could the weedy seadragons. The lights in these particular tanks turn off at specific hours to simulate night for the animals living in them.

Visiting with friends, Jennifer Plueard, CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) community director, explored the Splash Zone stating that coming to see the new exhibits is a "fun afternoon thing for students to come do." She went on to say she had fun playing with the sea creatures in the new touch pool, exclaiming that she got to hold a crab in her hand.

During the last hour of the night, there were not many younger visitors in the aquarium, but evidence of their curiosity could be found easily including

a hand print left on the Leaping Blennies tank, a fish that can be seen hopping from rock to rock, in and out of water.

Meanwhile volunteer, Sarah Matye, a student from UC Santa Cruz, visited her new favorite tanks one last time for the night. As Matye admired her favorite, the sea slugs, she explained that the new Splash Zone "connects people better to the water environment, to the ocean." Her enthusiasm towards the new exhibits was evident as she went on to say, "[the Splash Zone] is great for volunteers also because they get to explore the new areas with the guests and it excites and reconnects them with the ocean."

Nelson and volunteer Brigid Ganahl, handed out facts about animals in the new touch pool while putting all hermit crabs and sea snails in a different tank for the night to ensure their safety from their predator the sea star. They too, are thrilled about all the new exhibits, Nelson exclaiming, "The Pacific spiny lump sucker is my new favorite fish."

The Monterey Bay Aquarium staff is excited and prepared to share everything they know about the sea life in the new Splash Zone. To learn more about aquarium exhibits, events, or volunteer opportunities visit montereybayaquarium.org.



Ample Options for Food and Fun Off Campus

Jenna McKay, Staff Reporter
JENNA_McKAY@CSUMB.EDU

When the pangs of hunger or bouts of boredom hit, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students have an array of options off campus to wander to. Whether it is Thai, Mexican, Chinese or the All-American burger, or a night out on the town, there are places to venture away from campus when students need to take a break.

For students craving authentic Thai food, the buzz in the quad leads to one place, My Thai, located off Reindollar in Marina. "It's authentic Thai food; it's good, cheap, and the service is fantastic. Plus, it helps to keep the money in the local community, which is important," said Annette Partida, Humanities and Communications (HCOM) Senior. This house-turned-restaurant serves up hearty portions at college kid friendly prices. "My favorite is the Basil Chili Tofu," said Partida, which is a dish that will run one less than \$10.

Students pining for a bit of the Far East can head to Monterey or Marina for some sushi. If students want sushi in generous portions without busting their wallets they can visit New Tokyo in Marina. "It's cheap, tastes good and it's made by Koreans," said Ryan Cudal, Biology Sophomore.

Heading into Monterey? P.F. Chang's resides in the Del Monte Center, just off U.S. Highway 1. "It's hella good. Not on

the weekends though 'cause it's a hella long wait." Brett First, Spohomore Business major. "There's no Chinese food on campus," said First. Psychology Freshman Natasha Wright adds, "It's an amazing experience."

Sakura Buffet on North Main Street in Salinas is another place for students looking to gouge their tummies with some Chinese food. A buffet will only lighten a wallet a little, no more than \$10. "It's delicious and makes me feel better about myself. Support Salinas." Adan Romero, Biology Junior

Speaking of buffets, one of the things customers like best about Ambrosia Indian bistro is the lunch buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every weekday afternoon. For less than \$10, hungry students can eat all they would like of, authentic Indian cuisine.

Another buzz about campus surrounds the peninsula's green friendly café, Ol' Factory Café. "They have good drinks. I haven't tried their food, but it's a great place," said Stacey Roupal, Earth Systems Science and Policy (ESSP) Junior. Nestled in the folds of the old industrial part of Sand City where few dare to venture, they have a selection of coffee and an assortment of beers on tap, as well as several sweets.

CSUMB students are privileged with more than inexpensive food, in excess. A natural stress buster lays within reach, the beach.

"If it's a nice day, go to the beach and tan, because endorphins make you happy, and happy people don't kill people," said Stephanie Chiodo, Liberal Studies Freshman.

Beach volleyball, surfing, skim boarding or just a walk alone on the sandy ocean can help to clear a stress-cased head during midterms.

Cody Barnes, ESSP Jr. proudly proclaimed that surfing at Asilomar is his favorite pastime. With so much nature surrounding the campus, CSUMB students head out to enjoy it whenever possible.

Travis Prow, Teledramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) senior said he loves "nature walks in the area, specifically in Big Sur."

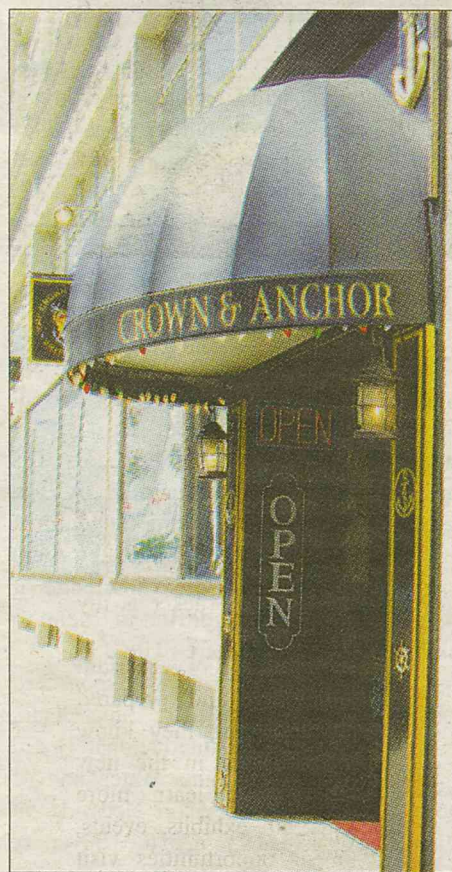
For many students, the study break comes after dark when the beach may not be such a feasible idea. Options for after dark may include bowling, movies, or heading out to the bars.

Evan Delay, ESSP Sophomore enjoys playing pool at Easy Street Billiards on Tyler Street. "Seeing a movie at Del Monte Center seems like a good escape," said Avery Smith, TAT senior.

For students over the age of 21, the option of going to downtown Monterey at night allows them to enjoy many opportunities that the city has to offer. Pubs, clubs and bars line Alverado Street, tempting students with promises of food, alcohol, loud music and conversation.

"I like the Duck 'cause when I did smoke I could have a beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other. There's an outside patio with a bar and music and such. It's a blast," said Serena Sousa, HCOM Senior.

Monterey offers CSUMB students the chance to venture away from their everyday life whether it be a meal away from campus or a rousing round of pool.



Local off campus hotspots for students.



PHOTOS BY JENNA MCKAY

OR [Arts and Entertainment]

Bringing Character to Student Dorm Rooms

Monica Guzman, Staff Reporter
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Being well into the second semester of school, many students living on campus have already put in their best efforts to make their rooms feel homier by decorating. Some students like to keep it to just decorating for holidays whereas others have actual furniture and textiles.

Maren Mitch, Earth Sciences and Special Projects freshman,

and Ashley Thompson, Business freshman, are two residents that specifically like to decorate for holidays. The two had already started taking down their decorations from St. Patrick's Day, but still had clovers and a few decorations left over from other holidays.

Mitch and Thompson described how they decorated for Christmas by putting up lights and garland in their room and wrapping paper over their door. "We have to live

here for so long, it's our home away from home," said Mitch.

Two other residents that have personality overflowing from their room are Belinda Hernandez, Liberal Studies freshman, and Tiffany Savala, undeclared freshman. The two have their room covered with posters of their favorite celebrities, pictures of family and friends, and artwork.

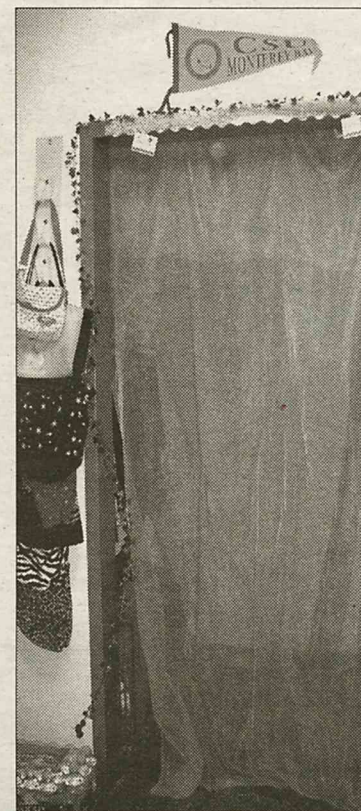
As a quick fix to hide a messy closet Hernandez and Savala put up a curtain in their closet

doorway. Liking the convenience and what it brought to the look of the room, the two roommates decided to keep the curtain. Being that the curtain is made from such light material, they were able to hold it up with masking tape, one of Hernandez's and Savala's favorite decorating tools.

Telecommunications, Multimedia, and Applied Computing Junior Sam Reiter who also has his room decorated with visuals said, "I just like putting stuff up, like cool pictures or anything that's unique." Reiter also covered the light in his room with colored cellophane wrap as a dimming effect.

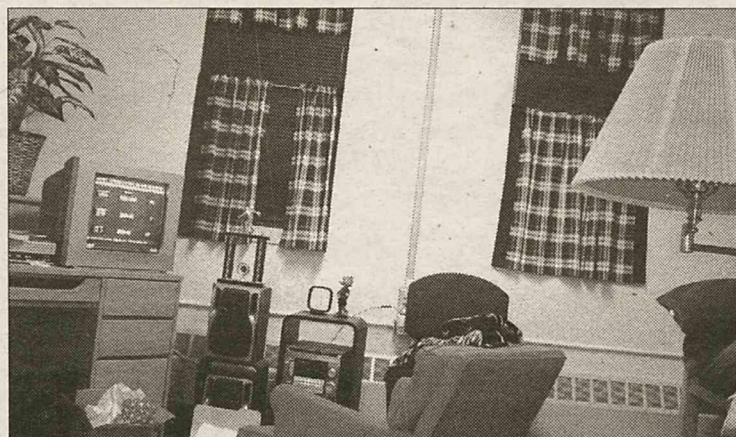
Favorite mounting products among the residents are clear, masking, and duct tape. Recommendations for heavier items were double-sided mounting tape from Mitch and Thompson and the Command adhesive strips by 3M from Reiter.

"Throw it up on the wall,



PHOTOS BY MONICA GUZMAN

whatever you have makes it feel cozy," said Hernandez and Savala providing one quick and easy idea to decorate a dull dorm room.



*"We have to live here
for so long, it's our
home away from
home."*

MAREN MITCH
EARTH SCIENCES AND
SPECIALPROJECTS

A Call for Action in the Global Community

Hayley Alaniz, Staff Reporter
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The CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) University Center Ballroom was filled with wide-eyed students and faculty on March 10 to hear the first-hand story of a "Lost Boy," Benjamin Ajak and Africa activist, Dr. Ashis Brahma. The new club on CSUMB's campus, Students for Global Awareness (SGA), and the Carmel Red Cross chapter sponsored the presentation that introduced all those who attended to the conflicts that have continued into present in Sudan.

Ajak, a member of the Lost Boys of Sudan, told his story of the tragedies and realities he experienced in his life and the 1,000 mile trek he and the other Lost Boys escaped in order to survive in 1987. Dr. Brahma continued the lecture with a PowerPoint of the history of Africa's tribes and the conflicts they continue to face today, especially in Darfur.

Ashley Dusenbury, senior, Global Studies (GS) major, and one of the founders of the SGA, stated that through the connections with the local United Nations Association (UNA) these

two speakers came to CSUMB representing an "issue that is still very current and is of importance for students to be aware of."

Whitney Popp, senior, GS major, and an officer of the SGA expressed that she hopes these lectures were able to influence students to take action. Popp continued that Ajak and Brahma did their part by telling their story, but it is left up to others to become a part of the global community.

The hour and a half lecture consisted of a segment about the Lost Boys from "60 Minutes," Ajak's life story and Brahma's

tale of his time and knowledge of Africa. The "60 Minutes" segment made the crowd laugh showing select Lost Boys coming to America and learning the commonalities of American life which included the use of a vacuum and stove.

The students and faculty were then introduced to Ajak who gave the crowd an inside look into his difficult younger life that made him learn to bury a dead body at the young age of eight.

While Dr. Brahma's conclusion was rushed for time, his historical PowerPoint left the audience with words of encouragement

explaining how Americans can take action regarding the current situations in Africa.

Senior, Global Studies GS major, and officer of SGA, Jon White, said that with the lectures of Ajak and Brahma, they were able to instill the knowledge of the complex conflict in Sudan to the students of CSUMB.

The next speaker to be sponsored by the SGA will be Jane Olson, Chair of the International Board of Human Rights Watch and of Landmine Survivors Network, on April 14 at 4 p.m. in the University Center Living Room.

New Season Begins for the Forest Theater Guild

Elaine Schumacher, Staff Reporter
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The stage is empty and the wooden seats are warm from soaking up the afternoon sun. The only sound heard is the breeze passing through the branches of the pine trees that surround the theater. There is warmth and peacefulness in its hibernation, but on May 22, the Forest Guild Theater, Carmel, will open its season with the play, "Camelot," directed by local favorite, Reg Huston. From June 28 to July 27, Andrew Lloyd Webber's, "Evita," with Laura Ekhart will be presented.

The oldest outdoor theater west of the Rockies was deeded to the City of Carmel in 1937. The amphitheater setting provides natural acoustics for the theater. Mary Austin, author of the book "The Arrow-maker" had the vision for the theater in 1907. Poet and dramatist, Herbert Heron and author, Michael Williams helped Austin make it happen. Today the Forest Theater Guild continues to keep the vision of the early

bohemian founders alive in the 21st century.

Located at Eighth and Monte Verde Streets, it is in the heart of the Carmel neighborhood. "The theater doesn't bother me at all, I enjoy it and look forward to its opening," said Tom Ballard who has lived above the theater, on Guadeloupe Street for the past five years.

"When 'Evita,' was playing, I would take my chair outside, relax and listen to the music with Zippy, my pet poodle," he added.

Jane Delay, executive director of the Forest Theater Guild, loves the theater and her job. "There is something magical about the theater, a warm, inviting aura surrounds it," said Delay.

The theater also shows movies on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, beginning at dusk. According to Delay, it is a great evening out for families, or to bring a date. Guests can pack a picnic dinner, or snacks, bring a blanket and see a play or movie.

"Audiences come away with the feeling that they experienced a

part of Carmel nostalgia," said Delay. She added that the theater would not exist if it were not for the volunteer carpenters and the lighting technicians. "They construct the perfect backdrop and lighting," added Delay.

The Forest Theater Guild is a community endeavor and the actors and musicians are local

residents. On Palm Sunday, an Easter Trilogy was presented in the indoor part of the theater.

"I have acted in a few plays at the theater," said Phyllis Davis of Pacific Grove. "The Forest Theater Guild is very special to me because here is where I met my husband when we were both working on the play, 'Seven Brides for Seven

Brothers,'" added Davis.

As bonfires are kindled on either sides of the stage during performances, the Forest Theater Guild tradition is kindled so that future generations are able to enjoy and appreciate the theater.

For additional information, please visit: foresttheaterguild.org.



PHOTO BY ELAINE SCHUMACHER

SBS Class Inspires Hip Hop Team

Destinie Schroff, Staff Reporter
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CSU Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) Rhythmic Flow offers students a chance to dance outside the traditional cheerleading or dance team mold. Created by Chris Marcos, a sophomore Teledramatic Arts and Technology (TAT) major, the Hip Hop teams has proven

to be a hit at basketball half time shows, talent shows, and have performed at on-campus fraternity gatherings.

Marcos came up with the idea during his performance in the first talent show last year. "I always wanted to be part of a group," Marcos said, and what stood out to him during the show was that he was the "only solo performer." Marcos created the

club as a part of his Democratic Participation Project for a Social Behavioral Science (SBS) class and has kept performing with the group ever since.

The first members were enlisted by responding to Marcos' open forum post for a Hip Hop group. The members had a meeting, discussed plans, and had try-outs to see who would make the group.

Erin O'Brien, Liberal Studies (LS) sophomore, is an original member. O'Brien has been dancing both cheerleading and Hip Hop since high school and after learning about the group and performing a learned routine for Marcos, she was admitted. O'Brien said "The routines are largely collaborative and open to changes. Chris is a great choreographer, and he's

completely open-minded, so it's a great combo."

"The practices are a lot of fun. We are all pretty friendly and we joke around while we learn the dances, and of course, we all love to dance so that is fun as well," O'Brien said.

[Event Calendar]

APR 3 - APR 16 WHAT YOU OTTER DO!

MON 3/31 - FRI 4/4
NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

THURS 4/3 SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLOQUIUM

6-8P.M., UNIVERSITY CENTER

The theme of the evening is "environmental justice is social justice," which will open up with a showing of the film "Local 909er" by CSUMB digital cinema professor Enid Baxter Blader. Following will be a roundtable discussion featuring Dr. Lisa Sun-Hee Park of U.C. San Diego.

FRI 4/4 "MAKE MUSIC, FIGHT CANCER" BENEFIT CONCERT

7P.M., ROBERT DOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PACIFIC GROVE, \$10
Featuring classical, pop and jazz from the Synergy Brass Quintet, local rock band "Yell" or "Trolley". Tickets can be purchased at the door. Call (831) 373-5570 for more information.

SAT 4/5 SURFING CLASS

10A.M.-2P.M., STUDENTS \$35

Call (831) 582-4271 for more information.

THURS 4/10 PRETTY IN PINK DANCE

BLACK BOX CABARET

Presented by Sigma Theta Ps to raise money for breast cancer awareness. Music by DJ Checo and DJ Head spinning Hop Pop, Reggaton, R&B, Merengue and more.

FRI 4/11 ZOMBIE VODOO SCREAM PARTY

GOLDEN STATE THEATRE, 7:30P.M., \$15
This silly, spooky and comical original musical is for adults and kids of all ages and promises to be the most unique theatre experience of your life. Saturday 4/12 also. Visit goldenstatetheatre.com for more information.

SAT 4/12 FIRST ANNUAL ASIAN FAIR

CHINATOWN, SALINAS 10A.M.-2P.M.
Take a stroll along Soledad, Lake and Calle Ceby streets in Salinas to see Japanese kendo demonstrations, Taiko drumming, Filipino tinkling, bamboo dancing, Ikebana flower, bonsai and

Asian scroll displays. Food, art and historical tours of Chinatown. For more information, call (831) 384-6961.

MON 4/14 GUEST SPEAKER JANE OLSON UNIVERSITY CENTER LIVING ROOM 4-5:30P.M., FREE

Olson is the Chair of International Board of Human Rights Watch and will discuss the current situation of human rights worldwide. Refreshments provided.

TUES 4/15 GUEST SPEAKER ALEXIE SERMAN, "INDIAN WITHOUT RESERVATIONS"

WORLD THEATRE, 7:30P.M., FREE
Sherman is the author of the autobiographical novel, "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian", and also has had a successful career as a playwright, filmmaker and teacher, and other books and films (such as "Smoke Signals") have drawn on his Indian heritage. Visit csumb.edu/speakers to make reservations.

Capstone Mural Inspires Elementary School Students

Andie Aguirre, Arts Editor
ANDREA_AGUIRRE@CSUMB.EDU

What once was a plain wall outside of the multi-purpose room wall at La Mesa Elementary school in Monterey, now serves as a canvas for a vibrant and colorful large-scale mural that contains an uplifting message for students and staff who will see it on a daily basis. Inspirational words written in yellow, red and blue surround a picture of a young boy who is reading a book.

The mural was painted by Paul De Worken and Jaime Sanchez, both seniors and Visual and Public Arts majors, for their capstone project.

Gloria Young, Art Director of the elementary school, said that students and staff of the elementary school loved being a part of the mural and enjoyed watching De Worken and Sanchez paint it. "The design and color are fantastic," Young said.

The mural, which was a collaborative effort of Visual and Public Art majors and friends De Worken and Sanchez, is titled

"Reading Out Loud."

The message behind the mural is the powerful impact that words can have on people as well as the importance of choosing words wisely. As part of a lesson plan, classes of students were asked to go home and work with their families to choose important, uplifting words for the mural, some words were even translated into their own languages. Some words that students chose for the mural included: family, friendship, unity, education, love and language.

"We wanted to show that the right words to use are the ones that are important to individual, words that are constructive, words that unite and words that do not mistreat," Sanchez said.

"We hope to inspire not only children at the school, but adults also to use words for justice and truth, and not to use them negatively," De Worken added.

The mural took them six weeks long to complete and was finished on March 7. The two said they are proud of their work and relieved that it is now complete.



"It has always been a dream of mine to create art in a public place and have people see it and react to it," De Worken said.

As a team, De Worken and Sanchez have also completed two other murals. One on a window at Mi Familia taqueria in Monterey and one at Mi Tierra taqueria in Watsonville. The two have currently been busy working on a new large-scaled mural at Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville. They have three more murals lined up for sometime in the near future. The two almost-graduates hope that with these murals they will build up their artwork portfolio and share their art with local and outside communities.

"I think that large scale painting is one of the best means to affect the most number of people, particularly those who do not have access to the 'elite' lifestyle which prescribes the leisure and privilege of going to museums and galleries," said Sanchez.



Paul De Worken (top) and Jaime Sanchez (right) paint their mural on a wall at Le Mesa Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY JAIME SANCHEZ AND PAUL DE WORKEN

OR[Sports]

Otter WAVES

Baseball

3-14 @ CSU Stanislaus Lost 0-5
3-15 vs CSU Stanislaus Lost 5-6, Lost

6-7
3-16 @ CSU Stanislaus Lost 9-14
3-20 @ Chico State Lost 2-18
3-21 @ Chico State Lost 7-17, Lost 1-8
3-22 @ Chico State Lost 0-14
3-28 @ CSU Los Angeles Lost 7-12
3-29 @ CSU Los Angeles Lost 10-15, Lost 3-13
3-30 @ CSU Los Angeles Lost 3-11
4-4 vs CSU San Bernardino
4-5 vs CSU San Bernardino
4-6 vs CSU San Bernardino
4-8 @ St. Mary's College
4-11 @ Cal Poly Pomona
4-12 @ Cal Poly Pomona
4-13 @ Cal Poly Pomona
4-18 @ Grand Canyon University
4-19 @ Grand Canyon University

Softball

3-14 Chico State Tournament team posts 2-1 record
3-20 vs Humboldt State Lost 0-6, Won 1-0
3-21 vs Humboldt State Lost 1-2, Lost 2-3
3-22 vs Humboldt State Lost 0-1, Won 2-0
3-26 vs Western Oregon Lost 1-5, Won 2-0
3-28 Tournament of Champions team posts 4-1 record
4-4 @ UC San Diego
4-5 @ UC San Diego
4-11 vs CSU Dominguez Hills
4-12 vs CSU Dominguez Hills
4-18 vs San Francisco State

4-19 vs San Francisco State

Waterpolo

3-15 vs Concordia University Won 12-8
3-15 vs Cal State East Bay Lost 8-10
3-27 vs Hartwick University Lost 13-14
3-30 vs Stanford University Lost 9-19
4-6 UC Davis Aggie Shootout Tournament
4-20 vs CSU Bakersfield

Mens Golf

3-9 @ Notre Dame de Namur Invitational: 11th place
3-14 vs US Naval Academy: Tie match
3-17 @ CSU Bakersfield Spring

Invitational: 4th place
3-30 Grand Canyon Invitational
4-6 Otter Invitational
4-13 CSU Stanislaus Invitational

Womens Golf

3-9 @ Notre Dame de Namur Invitational: 2nd place
3-16 Lady Otter Invitational: 3rd place
3-23 @ Grand Canyon Spring Invitational: 9th place
4-7 Chico State Invitational
4-14 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships

Otters are Distinct With Disc Golf

Blake Northey, Staff Reporter
BLAKE_NORTHEY@CSUMB.EDU

Grab your Frisbees and get ready for some disc golf. CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has the distinction of being the only university in California with not one but two 18 hole disc golf courses with state of the art Mach V baskets.

Playing disc golf is slowly gaining popularity on the West Coast and CSUMB is way ahead of other universities. Tyler McBrian, a CSUMB junior business major and avid disc golf player, said CSUMB is home to the Cyprus Course and the Oaks Course and playing these courses has really helped him focus on his disc golf potential.

McBrian has played disc golf at CSUMB since his freshman year and he is currently the treasurer of the CSUMB Disc Golf Club whose purpose is to provide a fun, free, recreational activity for students and the general community. McBrian said, "The Oaks course is bigger, longer, and has more challenging obstacles," and added that the Cyprus course is recommended for beginners.

Kenny Allison, a CSUMB senior Integrated Special Studies Major, Disc Golf Club president

and captain of the club team, agreed with McBrian on the difficulty of the courses. "Cyprus is a beginning course and the Oaks course has longer and more difficult shots," said Allison.

"The wind makes it difficult but it makes the team play better," said Allison. As the coastal wind blows through the courses, it gives disc golf players an extra challenge.

According to McBrian, "CSUMB has distinguished itself as the most powerful school on the West Coast in disc golf," adding that the CSUMB disc golf team are "champs, two years running," in reference to the West Coast College Open (WCCO), in which CSUMB has taken home the Stancil Johnson Cup trophy in 2006 and 2007.

For two years in a row, CSUMB has hosted the WCCO, which is history in the making for CSUMB since the WCCO is the first intercollegiate disc golf tournament on the West Coast. Although enthusiasts for disc golf view this activity as a competitive sport, Allison noted "the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) does not recognize disc golf."

Even without NCAA

recognition, CSUMB has distinguished itself among California colleges with its two disc golf courses, by winning the WCCO title twice, and maintaining their hold on the Stancil Johnson Cup.

Bradley Shafer, a CSUMB senior Human Communication major said, "Disc golf is one sport that is inexpensive and centered around nature." Shafer also added the nice thing about disc golf is that anyone can play, "You don't have to be in good shape, age doesn't matter, and it's like a walk in the park."

The CSUMB disc golf club hosts competitive tournaments in the fall and spring and the courses are open to students and community members of all ages. Playing disc golf is free for everyone.

For more information
on CSUMB's disc golf
club visit the website
at <http://clubs.csumb.edu/discgolf>.

Goalie Brings Fierce Defense To Home Waters

Blake Northey, Staff Reporter
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Jenna Beer, a CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) senior liberal studies major, is co-captain and goalie of the women's water polo team. At 6'2" Beer easily defends the Otter net from goal hungry opponents.

Beer, a Long Beach native who transferred to CSUMB from Long Beach Community College has nine years of water polo experience and numerous awards for her outstanding athleticism. She played water polo at Millikan High School and Long Beach CC.

"It's hard to be a goalie, no publicity, but that's not what you play for," said Beer.

Beer might not get a lot of publicity but her teammates value her contribution to the sport. Caitlyn "Cookie" Kuzynski, a CSUMB junior kinesiology major who's a utility player on the water polo team said, "The team gets positive energy from Jenna, she has everyone's respect."

Kuzynski continued her praise of Beer's defensive skills and credited her with providing the team with "positive encouragement in the water."

Currently, the Otter polo team has won 15 out of 22 games and Beer's saves at the net have helped make this a winning season for the Otters. Beer is hoping to "beat 500" [saves] by the end of the season.

"In the water, Jenna handles her role [goalie] very well," said Kuzynski.

Kat Ashley, a CSUMB junior Human Communication major who plays in the attacker position said Jenna Beer is "the glue that holds the team together." In preparing for a game, Jenna said she gets "mentally ready" so that she can focus solely on the game.

While the loss to Cal State East Bay on March 15 was a disappointment for the team, they are excited over the remaining six games left in the season. Four of those games will be played at home, and the Otters should do well in their own pool at the Otters' next game against University California Santa Cruz in Seaside on April 5.

For more information on the women's polo team, visit the Otter athletic homepage at otterathletics.com.

Campus Cheerleaders Question Their Place at CSUMB

Blake Northey, Staff Reporter
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In the fall of 2006, the CSU Monterey Bay (CSUMB) cheer team learned the school had adopted a policy requiring cheerleading activities to be supervised by a safety-certified coach. Without missing a step or jump in their gymnastic cheering routines, the team quickly located a coach, Sarah Diehl, who met the school's certification requirement. Diehl is certified through the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA). With over twelve years of coaching experience in the competitive world of cheerleading, the CSUMB cheer team

was fortunate to find Diehl who has been with the CSUMB cheer team since October 2006.

The CSUMB cheerleading team cheers for both men's and women's basketball games in the late fall, winter and spring. Coach Diehl said, "Since CSUMB does not have a football team, the cheerleaders have plenty of time to practice." Coach Diehl would like the cheer team "to get more floor time."

James Bernard, a CSUMB junior Kinesiology major and captain of the cheer team stated, "The program has been getting bigger and better every year." Like Diehl, Bernard is also a certified coach through the AACCA and this will be his second season as captain of the team. "We plan on attending Nationals," said Bernard in reference to the various regional and national cheerleading competitions held each year.

Cheerleading stunts and gymnastics are very athletic activities but Bernard expressed, "It [cheerleading] is not athletics, not quite activities." Coach

Diehl agreed with Bernard around the seeming ambiguity of cheerleading, "I get paid through athletics, but the team is not recognized by activities or athletics."

The coach and captain of the cheerleading team are hampered in their definition of cheerleading, specifically in terms of whether cheerleading is an activity or an athletic sport. It was not clear if they are undecided or if they are waiting for an administrative decision. Both Diehl and Bernard indicated that there was supposed to be a meeting to discuss the status of the cheer team.

Regardless of the cheer team's status as an activity or as an athletic sport, the CSUMB cheerleading team practices year round to cheer on Otter sports and enter cheer competitions on behalf of CSUMB. Anyone wanting more information on the co-ed cheer team or interested in trying out for the 2008-09 season should visit the cheer webpage at riptideallstars.com

Team Sets Goal for Season Turnaround

Alex Hawes, Sports Editor
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In yet another Division II debut in CSU Monterey Bay sports, the Otter baseball team is in the middle of a tough grind in their season. The team's record currently stands at 7-22, with a conference record of 5-15.

"So far this season is a little disappointing, we had high expectations and I don't believe that any of us are playing to the standards we set out as a team in the beginning of the season," said Senior Business (BUS) major and pitcher Norman Hebert. "We have a lot of talent and I have no doubt in my mind that we can compete with any team in our conference."

Senior pitcher and BUS major Luke Allendorf echoed Hebert, "We need to play a complete game. It seems like we can never really play great in all three phases of the game [defense, batting and pitching]."

Allendorf continued, "We need to go at least .500 the rest of the season,

and try to knock some other teams off and out of the playoff picture."

Even though the chances of a California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) playoff birth are dwindling, the players still believe they can turn the season around.

Hebert stated, "Our major goal this season was to make the CCAA playoffs. This is still a goal; we just need to get on a hot streak to pull it off. We definitely have it in ourselves as a team to make a run during this last half of the season. We have a positive attitude going into our next series, and we believe that we will succeed and have a complete turnaround."

Allendorf expressed, "We still have a chance at making the playoffs, but we have to play exceptionally well down the stretch in order to do so."

The team's youth, both as an organization and on its roster is another important obstacle to note. Of the 36 players on the team, only five are seniors.

Nolan Labrucherie, a freshmen BUS major and third baseman for the

team is focusing on the future. "We're a young team. We've only been around a few years now, and what's important is that we're growing and getting more experience with each new season." Labrucherie continued, "We have some great leaders and mentors on the team that are really helping us young guys out. [Justin] Rios and Thomas [Incaaviglia] are just a couple of the guys who we can look up to and learn from."

The team also plays a schedule with some of the best teams in the nation. Jayson Furia, a senior second baseman and BUS major at CSUMB said, "There are at least four teams in our conference that are ranked in the top 20 in the country. Our team is very close to being one of the elite teams in this league."

"We've played some really tough teams especially at the beginning of the season, like [CSU] Stanislaus and Sonoma [State]," said Labrucherie.

Students can watch the Otters at a home game on April 4 against CSU San Bernadino at 2 P.M.

Health Hints

Brennan Phelan, Staff Reporter
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Every weekend students blow off steam after a busy week of classes. This often involves college parties, which even more often involve a keg, 30 packs of beer, or an assortment of liquor. College life is a very fun, care-free time, but frequent alcohol use can become dangerous and mentally unhealthy. This week the Personal Growth and Counseling Center (PGCC) is sponsoring Alcohol Awareness Week to promote healthy habits and prevent misuse of alcohol by the campus community.

Lynne White-Dixon from the PGCC noted misuse of alcohol as one of the most common issues that drive students to seek counseling.

"Our philosophy is to help students figure out what will work in their own lives, we look at when they drink and why, and give tips for responsible drinking," said White-Dixon.

Misuse of alcohol is common on many college campuses, and it is important to recognize when drinking is becoming a problem. One drink is classified as a 12-ounce beer, a four-ounce glass of wine, or one-ounce of liquor, straight or in a mixed drink.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as "a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration to 0.08 gram-percent or above."

For a typical adult this usually means five or more drinks for a man and four or more drinks for a woman, over the course of two

hours. That may seem like a lot, but many students can easily drink this much or more throughout the course of a night out with friends.

Irresponsible alcohol use can lead to feelings of depression and anxiety, especially for students who depend on binge drinking to cope with problems. If drinking begins to interfere with classes and relationships, this is often a strong warning sign that alcohol use is turning into alcohol abuse.

This week the PGCC offers free alcohol screenings for CSU Monterey Bay students. Alcohol screenings consist of a series of questions that help students evaluate their drinking behavior. In observance of Alcohol Awareness Week, students are presented with the opportunity to reflect on whether their lifestyle choices are supporting their overall physical and mental health. Alcohol screenings have been going on all week throughout campus, and are still available today and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the PGCC.

Irresponsible use of alcohol is a concern on most college campuses, but that does not mean that students should ignore signs if their drinking is becoming out of control. Weekend parties can be a positive way to meet new people while easing the mind of the constant stressors of class and work. However, students need to be aware of the dangers associated with frequent drinking and that help is available on campus if needed.

OR[Opinion]

Sticks and Stones May Break Bones, But Words Can Deny Human Rights

Mary Freeman, Managing Editor
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Over Spring Break I had a late night epiphany. I was lying in a pallet on the floor of my best friend, Tasha's, apartment. It was an old familiar scene: Tasha, me, and the third leg of our 10-year-old tripod, Brandon. We were discussing how odd it was that Tasha was now married, when Brandon brought our 2 o'clock in the morning conversation to a halt with one comment, "You guys are so lucky. I can never get married, even though I really want to one day." At that moment, we all realized, as much as we think we are three parts of the same person, one of us will always be treated differently. On March 4, the California Supreme Court held a three-hour discussion to clarify whether Proposition 22, passed in 2000, prohibits gay marriage or merely prohibits the state's ability to recognize out-of-state same-sex marriages. They will arrive at a decision regarding the issue in June. This November, another piece of legislation, Initiative 07-0068, might make it onto the ballots, and if passed would surpass Proposition 22, by defining marriage in the state constitution, assuring that the courts and lawmakers cannot find a way to allow gay marriage.

Both of these pieces of legislation should never have been and never should be passed. The truth of the matter is that the State has no real vested interest, and neither do the people, in banning gay marriage.

I understand that Proposition 22 was passed, by the public, with an unimpressive 61.4 percent majority vote; however, in matters such as these the "public will," has no place. Just because the public passes a law, does not make it constitutional or

right. In 1948, Brown vs. Board of Education proved exactly that.

I find it kind of ironic that many of the proponents of this legislation argue that they need to protect marriage from being redefined, but they are the ones pushing legislation forward, adding to and changing the definitions already found in the law books. Perhaps the state constitution is vague on this issue because it is a living, fluid document, and as society changes, so does it?

Anti-gay legislation is not defending marriage; it is attacking gays. It is the conservative fascists that promote this sort of hate-breeding legislation that feel the need to exclude others. It is they who feel the need to draw line, they who need to be separate, to be superior, and it is all based on mere semantics.

Speaking of semantics, marriage and civil unions might be becoming closer to synonyms, but they will never be the same. The message that this sends to our children is that one group is different from the other and that one group does not deserve the same status as the other. This is not about definitions of words, and if it were that would be rather pathetic (this coming from someone who has quite a love affair with words). This is an assault against a group, an attempt to send a message to a group of people that they are different, that they are lesser than.

That night, with Tasha and Brandon, all we could think about is how Brandon's life would always be fundamentally different, and not just because he kisses men. There are people out there that will treat him as if he is a different breed of human, and the laws, no matter how wrong they are, still reflect that today.



PHOTO PROVIDED



om·buds [äm-bu-dz] 1. One that investigates reported complaints (as from students or consumers), reports findings, and helps to achieve equitable settlements.

Dear Otter Nation,

The Otter Realm consists of Staff Reporters who are enrolled in the Otter Realm workshop, HCOM 389 class. However, the Otter Realm also has a club on campus, which allows for students from all backgrounds to be a part of the campus paper.

Joining the club allows members to be present during the pitch meetings and critiques for the school paper. A pitch meeting includes coming in with a story idea and pitching it to the class. If the story is approved by the editor-in-chief, then that person or another member of the Otter Realm will write the article for the paper. If interested in joining the club, contact Mary Freeman, managing editor and Otter Realm Club President, on First Class for more information.

The Otter Realm staff is working hard on putting together an up to date and successful web page for the paper. If you have any ideas for the web page please feel free to send your thoughts on First Class to Otter Realm Editors or Otter Realm. Your time is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ricky Welshierner, Assistant News Editor

 **Stay Current Online at**
www.otterrealm.net

• Rebels Hold Hostages, France Holds Talks

Otter Oops

Page 8: In "Cesar Chavez Day: Unique to CSUMB, Presidents' Day equally important," Cesar Chavez Day is March 31.

Page 9: In "Beautification Plan Cleans Up Campus," CSUMB President is Dianne Harrison.

Editorial Policy

The Otter Realm is a bi-weekly student publication produced by the Otter Realm club and HCOM 389. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Otter Realm, CSUMB administration, faculty, staff or college policy.

The Otter Realm serves two purposes: it is a training lab for students who wish to learn journalism skills, and it is a forum of free expression of campus issues and news. The Otter Realm Editorial Board will determine what to print on these pages. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for libel, space or clarity.

Exploring Laura... You Can't Stop the Beat!

Laura Newell, Editor-in-Chief
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Do you know when you are having one of those "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days" that Judith Viorst described to many of us in her children's book, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day?"

What is that one thing that pulls every person out and brings light to that day filled with gum in the hair and teachers angrily sending us out of the classroom for not doing homework? Well, for me, I turn to the beat and the bob, the hip and the hop, and the soft melodies of music.

When walking down the street, I always find a woman walking to her own beat with thin white cords hanging from her ears to her pocket and eyes singing happily with a sparkle of excitement.

When I am driving in my car I see groups of people singing and "arm dancing" to blasting music from there blown out basses. This observation goes for both sexes, all age groups, and all styles of music ranging from hip-hop to rock to, yes, even country.

With the recent stresses of midterms, work and that inevitable capstone, I felt like my slump would never end. While I looked to friends and companions for support, this feeling of lying in a ditch and having the safety rope drop from the top onto me was something I'd have to rid myself of alone.

Last week, I decided to take a drive and let my mind run free. I turned the radio on and listened to "Sublime" caress my soul. I held onto the stirring wheel and swayed to the unmistakable beat of the "Red Hot Chili Peppers." Then I felt the uncontrollable head bob as Kanye West powerfully told me how everything in life will only make us stronger.

At that time, I realized I was late for work and quickly made a u-turn back to my final destination. As I pulled into the parking lot my radio inspiration ended with the soulful voice of Carrie Underwood singing her stimulating rendition of "I'll Stand by You." I could not move, I just sat in my car, closed my eyes and listened to her voice tell me that everything was going to become better.

At that very moment, I looked to a man walking on the sidewalk holding his iPod and I wondered, "Do we all need music in our lives to survive?"

For a poker player I know, music was said to "stir up emotions." While working out, he used rock to "pump him up" and while bringing romance to the night, his taste called for 1990's slow jams.

Music will always be in the world and it will always bring people to a safer, calmer or more "pumped up" place.

Getting ready for Saturday night parties, the girls and I always listen to our home-made "dance mix." Deb blasts it from her room and we all put on make-up, change into our final outfits and curl our hair to the perfect shape while laughter and excitement surges throughout the house.

The emotion of music is inherent in every person, whether you are walking to class with an iPod, dancing in the hallway, or having a "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day" each person has that one song that brings light to their moment.

Maybe music is like a beating heart and... "you can't stop the beat!"

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Person on Campus



"Being different than somebody else's and getting someone's attention."

-Wesley Peck,
Undeclared, Freshman



"I think a lot of research and a lot of hard work to make it the best that it can be."

-Kelli Laughlin,
Earth System Science Policy, Freshman



"Since I am going to be a teacher, my ideal would be something relating to kids. So everyone's ideal capstone would be relating to their major."

-Traci Alger,
Liberal Studies, Junior



"I guess something that will inform and help the community in a way that will help others reach their goals."

-Alfredo Mendoza,
Undeclared, Freshman

What makes a great Capstone?



"I say a lot of research and what comes out of it to the person, and to help them with who they want to be in the future."

-Tara Cvek,
Business, Freshman



Pipers Predictions

by Piper Waters

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan.19)

The sun is out and your ready to play, just make sure you have all your obligations taken care of before you grab your tanning oil and head to the beach...there may be some more tasks to be taken care of.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb.18)

It's time to start showing the other side of you, the one that is more sensitive. Others are feeling your harshness and aren't appreciating it...it wouldn't hurt to be a little more compassionate.

Pieces (Feb. 19–Mar.20)

You have a lot of ideas kept secretly hidden within yourself, perhaps it's time to start allowing others in on them...they can start to become a reality rather than fantasy.

Aries (March 21–April 19)

This is your time to shine. You are a magnet to positive endeavors at this moment and really allowing people to come into your life...if you embrace what's happening it could benefit you.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)

Perfection can never be obtained. You do realize this Taurus, don't you? Although it's nice to have a thirst to be number one, it's also nice to come down to earth...come down to earth.

Gemini (May 21–June 21)

Your life at the moment compares to a see-saw up and down, there isn't much balance. You might need to take a step back and get your priorities in order...the see-saw way of living gets old after awhile.

Cancer (June 22–July 22)

Try not to get caught into a routine, break out of the ordinary and try something you wouldn't normally do...not only will it be refreshing but very enlightening.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22)

Ever heard of the saying "no regrets." Try and live by that for the next couple weeks, it seems to be that you have been contemplating decisions from your past...move on and learn from them.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)

You are a hard worker; don't let others tell you different. Continue working hard and soon you should get noticed for your efforts...keep it up and you'll soon be rewarded.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22)

Your mind has been running lately. Everyone needs some down time, including you. Now is the time to relax and unwind, dig your toes into the sand...enjoy simple pleasures right now.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21)

This time of year makes you feel alive, cherish each day and take advantage of all the day light. It's time to rejuvenate and make use of all that bundled energy inside...get a little wild.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)

These next two weeks will test your patience with a fellow co-worker or friend. Keep it cool and you will be better off than allowing your anger to get the best of you...just breathe.

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S U D O K U

su·do·ku [sōō-dō'kōō]

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

